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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SOURCE

1. The SAG plant Stickstoffwerk Piesteritz located in Piesteritz near Wittenberg currently employs about 4,000 persons working in three shifts. About 300 women and about 600 apprentices are included in the total. The plant is a part of the Leunawerk combine.
2. The plant's most important product is carbide. About 14,000 tons of carbide are produced monthly, of which 2,500 tons are for export to the USSR, 2,700 tons for the East German economy and commercial carbide, 4,500 tons for lampblack (which is almost entirely exported to the USSR except for the little bit sent to the Buna plants), and the remainder is used for the processing of nitrogen in DDR plants. The quality of the carbide is very good. The exports to the USSR for the first quarter of 1952 were credited as reparations.
3. The lampblack plant working at 80% capacity produces about 240 tons monthly, which is from 104 to 105% of the target.
4. In October 1951 the production of phosphorus and phosphoric acid was begun. The monthly capacity for phosphorus is about 300 tons, but owing to the shortage of electric power only about 200 tons are produced, 50% of which are for exports to the People's Democracies and to the USSR. The quality of the phosphoric acid is fair.
5. Plathern, an insulation material, is produced for export only. The largest importer is the USSR, but owing to the large backlog of orders from the People's Democracies the present production of about 100 tons monthly is to be increased. Plathern is used in the refrigerator cars which are manufactured in Dessau for the USSR.
6. Oxygen is produced in large quantities. It can not be all disposed of, because the required carbide used to treat it is lacking.

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25X1A

7. About 2.5 tons of "Acetophen" (headache pills) are produced monthly in the pharmaceutical section, which is headed by (fnu) Kalfa a chemical student. There are 20 women and 10 men employed in the section. The research results of this section are worked out in the general laboratory.
8. On 1 July 1952 production of a rubber substitute is to begin. The construction of the plant and the preparatory work are just being concluded. The product had previously been produced in an experimental installation.
9. Lime (Didi) (sic), molding preparation for bakelite (good quality, 14 tons produced monthly, odorless and tasteless, all colors), urea, and potassium ferrocyanide (to Köln, West Germany) are also produced here.
10. The raw materials and their sources are as follows: coke, Zwickau, and Upper Silesia; lime from the Rübelandwerk which is connected with the Piesteritz Stickstoffwerk; phosphate, the USSR.
11. The carbide furnaces are in a very poor condition. The replacement parts are not available. At least one furnace a month is constantly under repair. If the furnaces were all in working order, a monthly capacity of at least 20,000 tons would be possible. Electrodes are in short supply. These were formerly obtainable from a firm in Nürnberg, but electrodes of poor quality are now obtained from Siemens-Plania in Berlin. The condition of the oxygen plants is very poor.
12. As a rule the current norms are exceeded by 25%. The norms are set in January by the TAN (Technische Arbeits-Normen) office in yearly wage contract in accordance with the collective contract and are good for a year. They are not challengeable and can only be changed during the current year with the consent of the employees.
13. There is a 14-day SED Party school, a 4-week activist school, and a 4 week brigade school (Brigadierschule) in the plant. Helmut Buski (SED) and Karl Adler (FDGB) are in charge of the schools.
14. The plant is guarded by a 140-man force of People's Police under Commissar Fritz Langwaren, who is about 42 years old, lives in Apollensdorf, and is a party-line SED member. The People's police is relieved every four weeks with the exception of Commissar Langwaren. The force consists of about one half youths and about one half older persons. The most important posts are held by youths. The plant area is fenced in. The People's Police do not have access to the factory, but are posted around the factory area.
15. The following is a list of the leading Russian personalities in the management:²
 - a. General Manager - (fnu) Kalin, about 40 years old, anti-German, goes about in civilian clothes, does not speak German, his wife is a member of the GPU (sic), lives in Wittenberg.
 - b. Chief Engineer - (fnu) Demshenko, about 35 years old, former major, parents are Volga Germans, speaks perfect German, lives in Wittenberg.
16. The following is a list of the leading German personalities in the management:
 - a. Plant Manager - Dr. Hans Schirmer, lives in Piesteritz, Coswiger Strasse, about 32 years old, married, one child, party-liner. He reports all suspects to the SED and is in constant communication with the SED commissar (fnu) Kenzel. He received his doctorate in 1945 with the help of the SED.
 - b. Technical manager - Senior Engineer Kurt Steinbrück, lives in Piesteritz, Coswiger Strasse, about 50 years old, married, one child, SED.
 - c. Sales Manager - (fnu) Kloss, lives in Piesteritz, Coswiger Strasse, 60 years old, married, non-party, unpolitical.

25X1 - 3 -

- d. Head of the Technical Checking Office - Dr. Meyer, lives in Piesteritz, Goswiger Strasse, about 40 years old, married, two children, SED, formerly Nazi.
- e. Head of the T&N Office - Erich Meyer, lives in Piesteritz, Goswiger Strasse, about 51 years old, married, one child, merchant by occupation, convinced KPD/SED man.

The T&N office employs 45 men, of which the following are two:

- aa. Erich Naumann, lives in Wittenberg, Lärchenberg-Siedlung, about 40 years old and married, occupation carpenter, SED.
- bb. (fnu) Scholz, lives in Wittenberg, about 40 years old, married, non-party.
- f. Head of Personnel - Hans Nitzschke, lives in Piesteritz, Schulplatz, about 48 years old, married, KPD/SED, party-liner, works closely with the SED
- g. Head of the Statistical Section - Hans Stein, lives in Wittenberg, about 55 years old, married, non-party
- h. President of the Shop Stewards - Karl Adler, lives in Piesteritz, Am (Betriebs-Gewerkschafts-Leitung) (BGL) Streng, about 50 years old, married, one child, SED, party-liner
- i. President of the SED - Helmut Suski, lives in Wittenberg, about 40 years old, married, SED, party-liner, works closely with the SED
- j. Vice-President of the SED Plant Group - (fnu) Wenzel, lives in Wittenberg, about 23 years old, SED, formerly with the Wittenberg SED.
- k. Director of Cultural Affairs - Hans Schubert, lives in Piesteritz, about 40 years old, married, SED, party-liner, member of the state directorate of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship, came from the Buna plant.

25X1A 1. Comment: Dr. Hei (fnu), the inventor of the bakelite product, has fled to West Germany.

25X1A 2. Comment: With the exception of the Russian management officials, there are no Russians in the plant.

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